

Bush, Rabin to meet Aug. 10-11

WASHINGTON (AP) — Yitzhak Rabin, the new prime minister of Israel, will join President George Bush for talks at his summer home in Kennebunkport, Maine, on Aug. 10-11, the White House said Tuesday. "The president looks forward to this early opportunity to meet with the prime minister to discuss ways to strengthen the bilateral relationship and to accelerate the process of making peace in the Middle East," said White House Press Secretary Martin Fitzwater. Mr. Bush personally extended the invitation July 13 in a phone call congratulating Mr. Rabin on his forming a new Israeli government. Mr. Bush sent Secretary of State James Baker to the Middle East last week to reinvigorate the stalled peace talks in the wake of the ouster of former Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and his conservative Likud Party government. Mr. Rabin, the leader of Israel's Labour Party, already has stressed his eagerness to push the talks forward and to move towards Palestinian self-rule in the occupied territories. Relations between Mr. Bush and Mr. Shamir were never warm and they grew frostier this year as the peace process bogged down. Mr. Bush has hosted a number of world leaders at his rambling, seaside estate on a rocky Maine promontory.

قزاحة للشمال



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Arafat urges Israeli flexibility

TUNIS (R) — Chairman Yasser Arafat has urged Israel to show more flexibility in its attitude to the Middle East peace process and accept the principle of land for peace, the Palestinian news agency Wafa reported on Tuesday. In a message to the 7th U.N. conference on the Palestinian question in Valetta, Malta, he called on Israel to show "a new political realism and more flexibility towards the American initiative." He said he hoped the new Israeli government of Yitzhak Rabin would "satisfy the ambitions of the Israeli elector who voted for peace and consequently for a radical change in Israeli policy in favour of peace." The Israeli government should "announce its acceptance of the principle of land for peace and United Nations resolutions, including resolutions 242 and 338," his message told the conference, which opened on Monday. The U.S.-brokered peace process is due to resume next month with talks most likely to be held in Washington.

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Cabinet approves loan agreement

AMMAN (Petra) — The Cabinet approved Tuesday in a meeting chaired by Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker a loan agreement between the European Investment Bank and the Industrial States Corporation. Under the terms of the agreement, the bank will extend 3 million European Currency Units (ECUs) to the corporation. The Cabinet also approved a cooperation protocol between the Public Security Department (PSD) and the French police and a system on moneychangers licence tariffs.

Saddam 'cannot attend' non-aligned meeting

BAGHDAD (R) — President Saddam Hussein said on Monday he would not be able to attend the Non-Aligned Movement's summit in Indonesia because of U.N. sanctions. The summit is due to be held in Jakarta from Sept. 1-6. The Iraqi News Agency (INA) quoted President Saddam as telling an Indonesian envoy who brought him an invitation: "We will actively take part in the conference but not personally because you know and realise our circumstances and we do not want to embarrass the conference by asking it to tell America to allow Iraq to use its fleet of planes, impounded in other countries, to attend the meeting." He said he doubted that the Non-Aligned Movement would be able to alter the influence of the United States as the lone superpower in the world. "In the past the world was threatened by the clash of the two axes, now what will befall the world comes from the separation of America, which is threatening world peace," he said. "How many heads of state and government in the conference will be able to mark this fact as it is?"

Gunmen attack U.N. barracks in north Iraq, IRNA says

NICOSIA (R) — Gunmen have attacked a United Nations barracks in the Kurdish city of Sulaymaniyah in northeast Iraq, Iran's IRNA news agency reported on Tuesday. It quoted Iraqi Kurdish sources in the Iranian Kurdish city of Sarandaj as saying one was injured in the Monday attack by an "unidentified armed group." The sources reported heavy damage to the U.N. barracks. There was no independent confirmation of the report.

Human rights groups assail Tunisia

TUNIS (AP) — Three U.S. human-rights groups demanded Tuesday that doctors be allowed to establish whether hundreds of Islamic activists on trial for plotting to topple the government were tortured. Middle East Watch, the International Human Rights Law group and the Lawyers Committee for Human Rights accused the government of denying legal representation and medical exams to the defendants. "There is a non-respect for the right of lawyers to have complete access to files, and delays in responding to the demand for medical examinations by the defendants," a communiqué said. The U.S.-based human-rights groups have been acting as observers since trials against 279 Muslim fundamentalists opened July 10, one of the largest proceedings of its kind in North Africa in years. Their appeal came as six of seven defendants hearing charges read against them in one military courtroom complained that police extracted confessions from them under torture.

Rabin visits South Lebanon

MARJAYOUN, Lebanon (AP) — Israel's new prime minister, Yitzhak Rabin, Tuesday visited the commander of Israel's proxy militia in South Lebanon, Major-General Antoine Lahd. Gen. Lahd said after the 30-minute closed meeting that Mr. Rabin's visit to the South Lebanon Army (SLA) headquarters in Marjayoun was "only one of protocols." Marjayoun, a town seven kilometres north of Lebanese-Israeli border, is inside Israel's self-styled "security zone."

U.N. begins search of Baghdad ministry

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — U.N. weapons experts began searching Iraq's Ministry of Agriculture on Tuesday for signs of weapons that might have been spirited away during a three-week standoff.

"This agricultural ministry standoff is a symbol of a very serious obstruction from the Iraqi side, an outright breach of Iraq's obligations under the ceasefire and an unacceptable breach of the ceasefire," Rolf Ekeus, the Swedish diplomat who heads the disarmament commission, told reporters.

As he spoke, U.N. inspectors were inside the ministry. The search of the ministry was finally approved by the Iraqi government Sunday, after the United Nations agreed to limit member of the team to nations that were not directly involved in the Gulf war.

The inspectors "are carrying out the inspection according to the programme that we had prepared in advance," Mr. Ekeus told reporters.

However, he said he remained concerned about the safety of the team from demonstrations in Baghdad.

"When I meet the members of the government this morning I underlined the importance of security and safety for our people," and their need to be able to work quietly and peacefully, he said. "I got a very strong promise."

As Mr. Rolf Ekeus flew in, Iraq's official press said his team

would be denied information on food stocks and production during its search of the ministry.

It also unleashed a fresh barrage of invective at the United States, which has announced the despatch of a third aircraft carrier to the region in a clear signal that Iraq should comply with ceasefire conditions.

Mr. Ekeus appointed a new team headed by German Achim Biermann rather than an American and excluded nationals of countries of a U.S.-led coalition that drove Iraqi troops from Kuwait in 1991.

The team includes another German, two Russians and one inspector each from Switzerland, Sweden and Finland.

Two Americans in the group will operate outside the building, sifting through any documents or other material discovered by their colleagues inside.

Before leaving Bahrain, Mr. Ekeus said U.N. experts believed the ministry had held documents related to Iraq's nuclear weapons programme and possibly to equipment for producing other weapons.

He did not say when his new team would enter the building but an Iraqi official, who declined to be named, said he could get in whenever he wished.

The West, led by the United States, had talked of using military force against Iraq to make it to comply. Both sides claimed to have won from the outcome. "This victory was incarnated

the solid national will of the Iraqis to ... rally around the leadership of President Saddam Hussein who led the battle ... with great courage and wisdom," Prime Minister Mohammad Hamza Al Zubeidi said on Monday.

In Washington, Mr. Bush described President Saddam as a "bully" and "merchant of death" and warned ceasefire "infringements" would not be tolerated. Iraq's official press responded in kind.

President Saddam's press secretary, Abdul Jabbar Mohsen, denounced Mr. Bush as a "tunnel-visioned charlatan" and the ruling Baath Party newspaper said there would be huge demonstrations throughout Iraq in support of President Saddam's stand on "American aggression."

"He (Mr. Bush) is rancorous, savage, barbaric and cursed ... he attacks Iraq under the pretext of international legitimacy," Mr. Mohsen said in his third fiery article in four days.

Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz, quoted by the official press, said the inspectors would be "denied information on grain stocks, food stuffs or any other data on irrigation projects."

"This information is related to Iraq's national security," he said.

Meanwhile Mr. Bush got pledges of bipartisan support from congressional leaders Tuesday for his handling of the Iraq

(Continued on page 5)

Israel says it expects backlash from settlers over building freeze

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli police were on high alert Tuesday for a right-wing backlash against the new Labour government's partial freeze on Jewish settlement in the occupied Arab territories.

National police chief Yaacov Turner said weapons given to settlers for self-defence could be turned against the state.

A spokesman for the nearly 100,000 settlers said they would not break the law in their struggle against Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's scrapping of plans to build nearly 6,000 housing units in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

But Mr. Turner hinted at possible violent protests by the anti-Arab Kach movement, some of whose members live in the settlement of Kiryat Arba near Hebron.

"We have to be very alert to how the state of Israel ... licenses young men who live in Kiryat Arba to carry weapons for their self-defence ... who use the weapons for more than what those who gave them the weapons intended," Mr. Turner said in a speech reported by Israel Radio.

"We have to deal with the problem of disturbances of the peace, expressing dissatisfaction with the government's decisions. It obligates us to have a very high level of alert," he said.

Bob Lang, spokesman for the council representing the settlers, said they would not take the law into their own hands.

"No one is putting together an underground and looking to do violence," Mr. Lang said. "We're looking into legal actions, private building ventures."

Police said they had intelligence during U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's visit to Israel last week that Kach planned to harm Mr. Baker. Tiran Pollok, a Kach leader, was arrested for pointing an Uzi submachinegun at Arabs outside a press conference held by Palestinian leaders who met Mr. Baker.

Mr. Lang said settlers planned demonstrations from Monday ahead of Mr. Rabin's trip to the United States. Mr. Rabin hopes to secure \$10 billion in loan guarantees withheld from his predecessor Yitzhak Shamir because of Washington's opposition to settlements.

Despite the freeze, Israel will finish building at least 9,500 homes in Jewish settlements — or nearly all the units under construction — according to new figures released Tuesday.

Mr. Rabin suggested deeper cuts were not possible because of legal and financial constraints and added: "We left (in place) a number of housing units in the territories, perhaps more than I

would have wanted."

The Housing Ministry figures disclosed Tuesday could affect the Israeli request for \$10 billion in U.S. loan guarantees as well as Arab-Israeli peace talks.

Washington has linked the aid to a settlement freeze and had blocked the guarantees because of the accelerated building drive by Israel's previous government.

Palestinians also demand a complete freeze, but have suggested they will not pull out of U.S.-backed peace talks with Israel if limited construction continues.

Theoretically, an additional 9,500 housing units could raise the number of settlers in the occupied lands by nearly 50 per cent, from 115,000 to 165,000.

However, liberal legislators said Tuesday they expected demand for housing in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip to drop sharply once the government cancels subsidies and tax breaks for settlers.

Meanwhile, contractors accelerated work in the occupied territories to prevent either cancellation of their projects or aim for the highest possible compensation from the government, said Aliza Goren, an adviser to Housing Minister Benjamin Ben Eliezer.

(Continued on page 5)

Egypt admits 'limited' police torture

CAIRO (R) — A senior Egyptian official, responding to allegations that Egyptian police tortured prisoners, said on Tuesday a small number violated human rights but they were tried and jailed if found guilty.

Major-General Bahaeddin Ibrahim, assistant to Interior Minister Mohammad Abdul Halim Musa, was responding to accusations by U.S.-based Human Rights Watch, which visited Egypt this week.

Deputy Director Kenneth Roth said in Cairo on Monday the group had found Egypt's State Security Investigation (SSI), which is part of the Interior Ministry, systematically tortured political detainees.

He urged the United States and European Community to suspend aid until the abuses stopped.

Gen. Ibrahim admitted in a statement that some of Egypt's 100,000-strong police force were not wholly innocent.

"We cannot claim that all com-

pletely abide by human rights, this doesn't happen in any country, whatever its share of democracy and freedom," Gen. Ibrahim said.

"But we have very limited cases where some policemen went beyond the law. They were put on trial," he said, adding that four police officers and about 11 policemen were in prison.

The cases of another eight officers and 16 policemen were before disciplinary courts for "acts which went beyond the code of treatment of civilians."

Gen. Ibrahim urged human rights activists to visit them in prison and see for themselves and said torture charges were based on biased testimonies of defendants, detainees or their lawyers.

"Those have an interest in saying torture occurred because that is the strongest way to defend them and to dismiss their confessions by claiming they were extracted under duress," he said. Middle East Watch (MEW),

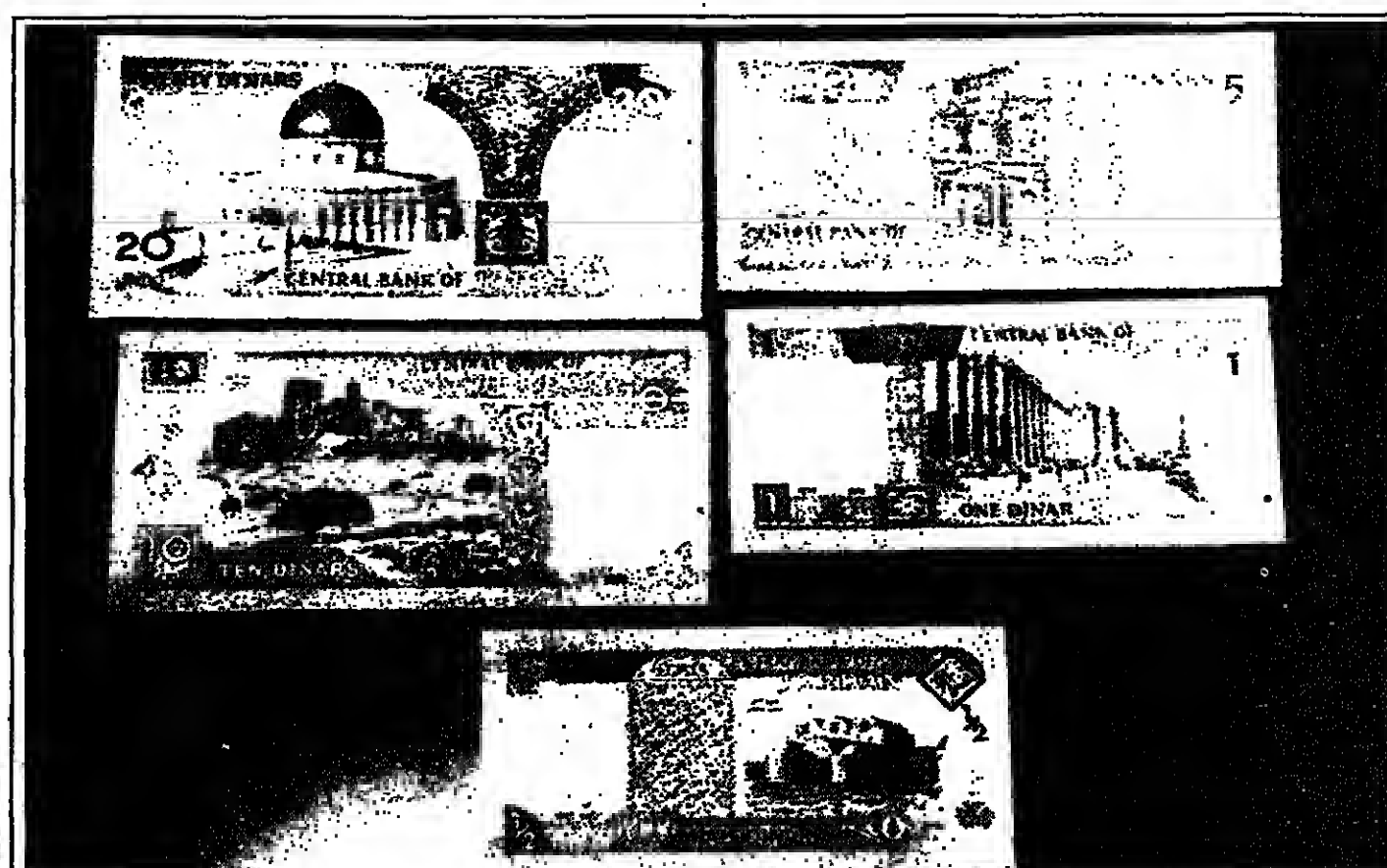
which works under the wing of Human Rights Watch, on Monday released a 200-page report detailing physical and psychological torture of men and women held incommunicado by the state security body.

The interior minister gave new members access to prisons in January to see that torture was not practised there.

"This position shows an honest desire to cooperate with them and reflects the ministry's desire to know of any negative aspects of shortcomings in protecting human rights according to Egyptian laws," Gen. Ibrahim said.

The new report said detainees were tortured in SSI offices in central Cairo or in central security forces military camps before they were transferred to prisons.

Gen. Ibrahim denied that there were detention areas outside prisons and that prisoners were sent into solitary confinement cells as a disciplinary measure when they violated prison rules.



NEW BANKNOTES: New Jordanian banknotes announced by the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) last May will start circulating on Saturday, according to a CBJ announcement Tuesday. The announcement said that new bills of JD 20, JD 1 and 500 fils will be distributed and the old bills will continue to circulate until they are

phased out. The announcement added that the CBJ will later introduce the other denominations and coins as announced in the May statement. In that statement, CBJ said that the new currency will be the same colour but have twenty different pictures, shapes and embellishments. (Petra photo)

Israelis kill unarmed teenager in Khan Yunis

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — Undercover soldiers shot and killed a Palestinian teenager in the occupied Gaza Strip with repeated gunshots though he was unarmed, Palestinian witnesses said Tuesday.

Israeli human rights activists investigating the killing said witnesses recounted that the youth was shot as he turned to face soldiers who had chased him into a house in the town of Khan Yunis.

The army claimed the soldiers shot the boy after he threatened them with an axe during a chase. But eyewitnesses said the boy had no weapon and, in fact, a companion had first carried an axe but dropped the weapon when soldiers appeared.

Yuval Ginhar of the Israeli human rights group B'tselem said he was shown the small room where the youth was shot — which had three bullet holes in the wall — and interviewed six witnesses who saw the youth chased or killed.

B'tselem, also called the Israeli Information Centre for Human Rights in the Occupied Territories, has studied several killings by undercover army soldiers who often use Arab costumes to arrest uprising activists.

It has urged an investigation of

the squads, maintaining many of their victims were killed under questionable circumstances.

The latest incident occurred Monday night when soldiers in civilian clothes attempted to detain two masked Palestinians, one holding an axe and the other scribbling on a wall a slogan about an internal Palestinian dispute, Arah reports said.

The military spokesman said paramilitary border patrol guards encountered "two masked men armed with axes. A chase ensued."

One activist was detained and the other was shot as he ran at the troops shouting in Arabic "Allahu Akbar."

But witnesses told Arah reporters and representatives of B'tselem that the victim, Nureddin Abdul Kader Akkad, 16, did not have a weapon.

Mr. Ginhar, in Gaza investigating Akkad's death, said that as the youth turned around in the bedroom, the soldiers fired at him some seven times in front of a 14-year-old mother, her nine-month-old son and an older couple.

Witnesses maintained the soldiers did not call out to Akkad to halt or fire first in the air as army shooting orders demand; Mr. Ginhar said.

U.S. 'consulting' allies on military action in Bosnia

GENEVA (Agencies) — The United States is consulting other powers over possible military action to protect the delivery of relief aid to former Yugoslavia, a senior U.S. official said on Tuesday.

Assistant Secretary of State for International Organisations John Bolton told a news conference that Washington was not in favour of military action "at this point."

He added: "But we would support a (U.N.) Security Council resolution to authorise the use of all necessary means to ensure the delivery of humanitarian assistance ... we're in consultations on the subject right now."

Mr. Bolton, in Geneva for a U.N. conference on the Yugoslav humanitarian crisis, told the United States would consider parachuting food and medicines to the besieged town of Gorazde in eastern Bosnia.

Some 70,000 Muslims, most of them refugees driven from their villages by "ethnic cleansing" operations, according to Bosnian officials, have been besieged by Serb forces for more than three months.

Serb irregulars say Gorazde residents are starving. "The situation in Gorazde is certainly desperate and we would be willing to look at airdrops if we can't get through by road," Mr.

Bolton told the news conference. As Mr. Bolton spoke, shelling and gunfire rattled the Bosnian capital and leaders of the republic's warring factions sought a peace formula in London.

U.N. officials said Ukrainian and Egyptian soldiers were moving into Sarajevo to replace Canadian peacekeepers, who secured the airport for relief flights.

As Croat, Serb and Muslim representatives entered the second day of talks, the Muslim representative effectively rejected the latest European Community (EC) plan, saying any splitting of the republic would produce ethnic divisions "drawn in blood."

Artillery and small arms fire were exchanged in the district of Hrasno in Sarajevo on Monday night and again on Tuesday morning, Sarajevo Radio editor Zoran Firolic said.

The embattled area of Dobrinja, where devastated high-rise buildings overlook Sarajevo's airport, was shelled twice during the night, he said.

Serb irregulars lobbed mortar bombs into the outskirts of the old town early in the morning, the radio reported.

The fighting was not heavy by the standards of the Bosnian capital, where Serb forces surround the mainly Muslim and Croat defenders.

Algeria reports arrest of 'most wanted' extremist

ALGIERS (AP) — Police have arrested one of the most-wanted chiefs of the armed Islamic bands waging a bloody campaign against the government, the official AFS news agency reported Tuesday.

Manouri Miliani, whose picture has been pasted around the capital on wanted posters, was seriously wounded in the arrest Monday near Tipaza, west of Algiers, AFS reported without citing details.

The report came hours after witnesses reported that four masked men gunned down a police officer in a drive-by shooting outside his home in Ain Aya, an Algiers suburb. There was no evident link between Mr. Miliani's arrest and the shooting.

No one claimed responsibility for the killing, but the slaying comes amid a series of attacks by Islamic fundamentalists that have slain more than 100 police officers and soldiers since January.

Mr. Miliani, a long-time hardliner whose previous death sentence for organising attacks was lifted in 1989, took up arms again after January's military coup and crackdown on fundamentalists.

He is believed to be a top leader of the armed Islamic Movement, an umbrella group for many of the bands that have organised bomb and gun attacks

on security forces and public buildings.

The coup denied victory to the popular Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) in Algeria's first free parliamentary elections. The party was banned and thousands of adherents detained in desert camps.

Premier Belaid Abdul Salam said in a news conference Monday that the democratic process will not be restored until the Muslim radicals are neutralised.

His remarks came a day after the government announced that 10 suspects have been arrested in the assassination of Mohammad Boudiaf, who led the five-man High State Council the military installed to run the country.

Among those arrested were the chiefs of the presidential guard and the special forces, accused of "criminal negligence" that allowed Second Lieutenant Lembrek Boumaaraf to gun down Mr. Boudiaf June 29 (see page 2).

A report by a government-appointed investigative commission indicated that military officers played a role in the conspiracy to slay Boudiaf during a speech in Annaba, eastern Algeria.

But it did not implicate the military hierarchy, which effectively rules Algeria, nor eliminate a role by Islamic fundamentalists.

Kuwaiti security forces given more authority

KUWAIT (Agencies) — Kuwait's National Assembly on Tuesday passed a law giving the Interior Ministry the power to seal off entire neighbourhoods to conduct house-to-house searches for illegal arms.

The measure has been debated for a year, after a drive by the ministry failed to convince Kuwaitis to turn in the guns acquired during or immediately after the seven-month Iraqi occupation that ended in February 1991.

The country has been hit by an unprecedented string of shootings and bombings since the war, usually blamed on "Iraqi infiltrators." But most law enforcement officers said the proliferation of weapons was at the root of the problem.

The 75-member assembly a rubber-stamp council with no real power, recommended that the wording in the law be altered so that the searches would not come at any time of day or night unless previously deemed necessary by judicial authorities.

The changes will have to be reviewed by the cabinet before the law is sent to sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, the ruling emir, for his approval.

The partially-elected council has only a consultative role.

In a stormy session, it overruled objections from some de-

puties and its official legal expert who said the bill contravened Kuwait's constitution even in the amended form.

Two Kuwaitis were sentenced to seven years in prison on Monday for keeping a box of hand grenades.

The amended bill allows legal authorities to issue police with search warrants on individuals, houses and means of transport "in a specific area of a certain region for a given time period," reversing more sweeping terms in the original.

But council officials and several deputies told Reuters the chamber's official legal expert Abdul Fattah Hassan still considered the law unconstitutional.

"Is it constitutional or not?" Deputy Abbas Al Khodan asked the session. "If it is, we want a clear statement from the constitutional expert."

Mr. Hassan sat in the chamber but was not publicly consulted. The government introduced the bill after repeatedly but fruitlessly calling on citizens to hand in unlicensed weapons voluntarily.

Officials and public figures say security is now Kuwait's top priority following the wave of unexplained attacks, but there is no clear consensus on how to deal with it.

Kabariti says returnees doing well; expatriate society counters the claim

AMMAN (J.T.) — Most of Jordan's returnees from Kuwait following the Gulf crisis have been incorporated in the economy and their return has been a catalyst for stimulating the national economy, according to Labour Minister Abdul Karim Al Kabariti, as carried by the French news agency, Agence France Presse.

The return of hundreds of thousands of expatriates has only burdened the public sector providing increased services on all fronts, such as water, medicine, transport and housing, Mr. Kabariti said, whose remarks were carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

The minister said he believes that most of the expatriates now have reliable sources of income through new investments in businesses and real estate, both sectors now booming.

The minister said that billions of dollars are needed by the state to cater to the essential services for the expatriates.

According to the Ministry of Planning, at the end of the Gulf War, Jordan needed at least \$4.5 billion over the next five years to cater to the needs of the returnees.

Mr. Kabariti said that only a



Abdul Karim Kabariti

limited number of returnees failed to find their way in the economy. The minister estimated that about 82,000 of the 330,000 who returned from Kuwait are working. He added that a large number of returnees have settled abroad or in the occupied West Bank to work.

The minister's views were countered by the Chairman of the Expatriates Society, Yahya

Otaibi, who said that barely 20 per cent of the returnees have settled in new businesses or found work with the public or private sectors.

Most of the returnees are leading miserable lives two years after being evicted from Kuwait, where they lost their jobs, homes, and savings, Mr. Otaibi said.

Mr. Otaibi said the majority of the returnees are unable to pay customs duty on cars brought in on their return, which means they have little income.

The Ministry of Labour meanwhile, reported that it received 27,000 applications from expatriates claiming compensation for losses resulting from the Gulf crisis.

The Ministry of Labour is processing the applications which will go to the Foreign Ministry before they are presented to the United Nations special committee on compensation.

Mr. Kabariti estimates the total amount of compensation claimed by the expatriates at \$8 billion.

Many of those interviewed by AFP expressed desire to go back to Kuwait to resume their businesses should relations between Jordan and Kuwait improve.

قصر الحسين



Her Majesty Queen Noor opens the 12th annual Arab Children Congress

12th Arab congress opens, children take steps towards better inter-Arab relations

AMMAN (J.T.) — Thirty-four children from five Arab countries gathered Tuesday at the Royal Cultural Centre (RCC) in Amman to start the 12th Arab Children's Congress, opened by Her Majesty Queen Noor Al Hussein.

The children from Algeria, Libya, Palestine, Tunisia and Jordan are guests of the Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF) which has been organising the annual event since 1980 under the patronage of the Queen.

Gathered at the opening ceremony, the children listened to programme director Nahleeh Wahbeh outline the aims and objectives of the annual affair, noting that NHF aims to foster inter-Arab relations and strengthen friendship among Arab children.

Following the opening speeches the children listened musical selections presented by students of the National Music Conservatory and watched folkloric dances performed by the National Jordanian Folklore group.

The children will travel around the country attending cultural events and visiting several historical sites to acquaint themselves with Jordan's ancient civilisation.

According to NHF, the children will visit the industrial city of Sahab and other places of interest. On Wednesday they will visit the Dead Sea region and the NHF "Quality of Life Project" in Sweimeh village, where socio-economic schemes are being launched.

The 12th Arab children congress will end Aug. 2 with a seminar entitled "A Perspective of the 21st Century: Science and Technology," to be followed by recommendations to wind up the six-day event.

Since its inception in 1980, the annual congress has been attended by 614 children from the Arab World. The congress was initiated by Queen Noor in a bid to bring together talented children from Arab countries and give them an opportunity to learn sharing experiences and participate in cultural activities.

The Agriculture Minister Fayez Khasawneh made the announcement at a meeting with a group of Mafrq governorate farmers.

The task force is scheduled to submit its final report on the project by the end of this week, to be reviewed by the ministry the following week, said the minister.

Currently the country has two tomato processing plants, one at Arida in the central Jordan Valley region, the other in the southern valley. Together they process 1,100 tonnes of tomatoes a day, according to ministry officials.

The new plant in Mafrq is essential because of its proximity to farmland, saving farmers the time and extra expense of transporting the perishable produce to Jordan Valley, noted the minister.

Dr. Khasawneh said that the cabinet decided on the project after fully examining the production rate of tomatoes in Jordan. The minister also heard farmers' complaints and learnt from the farmers about promising to study and explore solutions.

'Saleh Rifai, director of the Jordan Agricultural Marketing and Processing Company (JAMPCO) attended the meeting and said that a tomato glut in the market is forcing prices down.

By Tuesday a kilo of fresh tomato cost 60 fils.

In a statement earlier this month, Dr. Khasawneh noted that tomato crops in the Jordan Valley exceeded the demand of local and traditional export markets. He suggested local farmers be persuaded to adopt a cropping pattern system to limit the production of vegetables and increase crops of cereals and fruits, such as bananas, grapes and kiwis. Dr. Khasawneh added that there is growing demand for cereals and fruits, opening the door for higher incomes.

Contractors and factories fear iron and white cement shortage; jobs jeopardised

AMMAN (Petra) — Contractors, merchants and marble and tile factories are complaining about shortages in iron and white cement in construction and industry, urging the government to issue more import licences until the crisis eases.

Khalil Haddadin, Jordanian Contractors Association (JCA) president said contractors are probably hardest hit by the shortage because they have to meet public and private sector deadlines.

Noting that the crisis began in the wake of the return of hundreds of thousands of people from the Gulf states seeking homes, Mr. Haddadin said that the total area of buildings in 1991 rose to 4.2 million square metres and is expected to reach five million this year.

Mr. Haddadin said that some people have been hoarding iron and white cement to sell at exorbitant prices on the black market.

Official iron and cement prices are JD 292 and JD 70 per tonne, respectively, and the blackmarket prices are JD 380 and JD 200 a

tonne, noted Mr. Haddadin. He appealed to the government to step in and increase the number of allowable imports to help end the crisis.

President of the union of marble and tile factories in Jordan, Youssef Humeiri said that although the black cement problem has been solved by increasing production, the local market still suffering from chronic shortages of white cement and iron.

He said that 80 per cent of Jordan's share of white cement produced by the joint Jordanian-Syrian white cement company is consumed by tile and marble factories, which are working at full capacity to meet increasing demand. The Jordanian-Syrian white cement company produces 2,100 tonnes of cement weekly.

According to Awad Shaer, owner of a marble and tile factory, the country should import white cement to save his business, and others, from firing workers and the amount of cement decreases and production comes to a standstill.

He said about 15,000 workers

are employed by Jordanian tile and marble factories, which are raising their prices because raw materials, including the white cement, are scarce.

Mr. Eid Abu Karaki, director general of the white cement factory, noted that the factory is working at full capacity, producing 300 tonnes of cement daily, half of which goes to Syria under the Jordanian-Syrian agreement. Mr. Abu Karaki blamed the crisis on demand in the wake of the Gulf crisis and hoarding.

Mr. Ibrahim Ahol Ragheh, general manager of one of three iron factories, said that the three factories produce 250,000 tonnes of iron annually but that was still not enough to quench the market. He added that the factories do not plan to raise iron prices, despite pressure.

In reply to complaints, Ministry of Industry Secretary General Marwan Awad said that the shortages are temporary. He added that the ministry places no restrictions on imports and has already issued licences allowing merchants to import cement and iron.

TCC threatens defaulters with service cuts

AMMAN (Petra) — The Telecommunications Corporation will partially suspend telephone service to defaulters starting Aug. 8.

Under the measure subscribers will only be able to receive incoming calls for a one week grace period, then the service will be completely cut if the bills are not paid.

Telephone lines will only be reconnected when bills are settled and a fine of five dinars is paid.

In another development, the corporation said Tuesday that its local, national and international switchboards were under heavy pressure when the results of the Tawjihi examination were announced Tuesday. Corporation sources said telephone switchboards throughout Jordan, particularly in Amman and Zarqa, were especially burdened causing cut-offs.

65,707 sit for Tawjihi, overall pass rate — 51.3%

AMMAN (Petra) — The overall pass rate in the various streams of the General Secondary Examination (Tawjihi) for 1992 was 51.3 per cent, according to Dr. Mohammad Sayel Obaidat, director of the examinations department at the Ministry of Education.

Dr. Obaidat, who held a press conference Tuesday to announce the results said the pass rate in the literary stream was 43.0 per cent, 64.5 per cent in the scientific stream and 48.8 per cent in the commercial stream.

The pass rate in the agricultural stream was 47.6 per cent and 52.5 per cent in the industrial stream. The rate was 64.8 in nursing and 75.8 per cent in hotel education.

A total of 73,175 students registered to take the examination, but only 65,707 actually sat for

them, including 48,781 regular students and 16,926 students from private schools and others.

Meanwhile, the ministry urged the children of teachers interested in a royal endowment allocating several university seats to children of teachers to approach the ministry or the various education departments to apply.

The ministry stipulated that students need a minimum grade of 65 to qualify for filling the application for admission to universities.

The royal endowment includes sons and daughters of teachers working for the ministry, seconded to Arab countries, detailed to various ministries and government departments and retired teachers from the education and higher education ministries.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

Lower House meets today

AMMAN (Petra) — Lower House of Parliament Speaker Abdul Latif 'Arabiyyat announced the House will meet Wednesday at 10 a.m.

Syrian Industry official arrives

AMMAN (Petra) — Syrian Minister of Industry Ahmad Nethamuddin arrived in Amman via Ramtha Tuesday for a three-day official visit to Jordan. The Syrian minister said upon his arrival that he will participate in the meetings of the general assembly of the Jordanian-Syrian white cement factory in the Khaldiyya area of Jordan, and of the Jordanian-Syrian carpet factory in Syria.

Attaches visit PSD

AMMAN (Petra) — A delegation comprising military attaches in Jordan visited Tuesday the Public Security Department (PSD) where they were briefed on its establishment, development and role in maintaining security. The delegation toured several of the PSD's sections and projects, and concluded its tour by visiting the Women Police Command.

Psychological problems of youths studied

AMMAN (Petra) — A seminar on the psychological problems of youths was held Tuesday at the University of Jordan. Speakers at the seminar were chairman of the psychology department Youssef Qatany and psychiatrist Walid Sarhan. The two speakers dealt with problems facing youths at the start of college life, particularly problems related to adapting to a new environment. They also offered recommendations on ways of overcoming these problems. Another seminar on the political parties draft law was also held at the university. Participants at the seminar included Lower House of Parliament members Mohammad Al Alawneh, Fakhri Qawar and Mohammad Ahn Aleem.

Amman to update votes list

AMMAN (Petra) — Amman Governor Issa Al Omari said Sunday that the committees reviewing the electoral constituencies in Amman governorate will start to review and screen the voters lists on Aug. 1. During the two week process the committee will delete names of the deceased and those sentenced to one or more years in prison for political crimes, according to Mr. Omari. Names of people who have reached the age of 19 as of July 31, will be added to the voter list.

JCO and World Bank discuss services

AMMAN (Petra) — Director General of the Jordan Cooperative Organisation (JCO) Jamal Bedour received Tuesday World Bank official Christopher Ward. The meeting reviewed services JCO offers to agricultural cooperatives. It also discussed possible financial assistance by the World Bank to projects supervised by the organisation.

Youth studying abroad meeting opens Saturday

AMMAN (Petra) — Under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the sixth gathering of Jordanian youths studying or working abroad will be opened Saturday in Ajloun area. The gathering is held annually by the Ministry of Youth to familiarise expatriate youths with touristic and archaeological sites. Acting secretary General of the Ministry of Youth Issam Arida chaired a meeting Tuesday at the ministry to discuss issues pertaining to the activities of the gathering.

Medals of appreciation awarded

AMMAN (Petra) — A royal decree was issued Tuesday conferring upon Mr. Omar Khairi Khamash Jordan's Al Kawtbi Medal of the Third Order, in appreciation of his sincere efforts, dedication and long service at the royal court. Another royal decree was issued Tuesday conferring upon the former secretary of the Prime Ministry, Eid Abu Karaki, Jordan's Independence Medal of the Second Order in appreciation of his sincere and dedicated service. A third royal decree was issued Tuesday endorsing the appointment of Pawwaz abu Tayeh as non-resident ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary in Hungary.

Medical day in Dhiban

AMMAN (Petra) — The Great Arab Revolt Club will organise Thursday a voluntary medical day in Dhiban area. As part of the day's activities, more than 20 general and specialised physicians will conduct a medical survey in the area and treat all patients free of charge. The medical day is organised in cooperation with the University of Jordan Hospital, the Noor Al Hussein Foundation and several pharmaceutical factories.

DEF donated JD300,000

AMMAN (Petra) — The Development and Employment Fund (DEF) has provided JD300,000 to charities to help them with 15 projects set to create about 290 jobs for low income groups, according to DEF Director Abdul Ilah Abu Ayyash. He noted that approval to finance these projects was given following studies by the fund. The projects include eight industrial projects, five agricultural projects and two handicraft and social projects. The programmes will be carried out in the Irbid, Amman, Karak, Tafleh, Maan and Mafrq governorates. He said that the industrial projects accounted for 55 per cent (JD167,000).

Village receives JD25,000 in loans

NORTH SHUNEH (Petra) — The Cities and Development Bank has granted Al Adasiyyeh municipal council a loan worth JD25,000 for opening and asphalted roads in the village. The chairman of the municipal council said the council is now working on planting olive trees and maintaining electricity in the village.

Evidence linking chlorinated water to cancer does not apply to Jordan

By Ayman Al Safadi
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan will not consider alternatives to treating drinking water with chlorine despite new scientific evidence that links rectal and bladder cancer to drinking, showering and bathing in chlorinated water.

Medical researchers at the Medical College of Wisconsin, the United States, and the Harvard School of Public Health have established a "clear pattern between consumption of chlorinated water and rectal and bladder cancer," Renter news agency reported recently.

"We are aware of this study and many others but their findings do not apply to Jordan," Director General of Jordan Water Authority (JWA) Mr. Mutaz Belbeisi told the Jordan Times.

He said that drinking water in Jordan is completely safe.

Scientific research has long established that chlorine combines with organic compounds in water and produces dangerous chemicals that cause cancer.

The director of the Laboratories and Quality Control Department at the Water Authority, Mr. Raja Jadoun, said that such organic compounds exist in surface water which Jordan rarely uses for drinking purposes. Such compounds are not found in under-ground water which provides 95 per cent of drinking water in Jordan, he said.

Mr. Jadoun said that the amount of Chlorine Jordan applies in water is within the internationally set standards of 0.2 to 0.8 milligrammes per litre. He said the level applied is acceptable, asserting that drinking water in Jordan is safe and the "chlorine applied to it has no harmful side effects."

Chlorine is the chemical most commonly used for killing bacteria in water. Chlorination is the cheapest disinfection method Third World countries rely on for treating water.



Princess Basma and Suheimat discuss charity

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Basma received Tuesday Deputy Prime Minister and Transport Minister Ali Suheimat. Princess Basma and Mr. Suheimat reviewed issues related to voluntary work in Jordan and the Queen Alia Jordan Social Welfare Fund (QAF) role in supporting social work in the Kingdom. Mr. Suheimat stressed that the government is

currently giving the social sector due attention. Princess Basma reaffirmed the readiness of QAF to coordinate and cooperate with all official and public departments and organisations in contributing to social development. The princess pointed out that the fund's strategy is mainly based on the need to integrate and improve all efforts aimed to provide services in Jordan.

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Benefit of doubt growing very thin

SECRETARY OF State James Baker is reported to have said when he arrived in Israel recently that he was pleased that, unlike in previous visits, he was not welcomed by the construction of a new Jewish settlement in the occupied Arab territories. Mr. Baker must have used the symbol to express his and the U.S. administration's satisfaction over the assumption of power by a new Israeli government whose first priority ostensibly is not the building of new settlements in the occupied territories. No thanks to outgoing Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, the extensive building of settlement in the last two years had reached near the point of no return. It is no secret that Mr. Shamir's government had intensified settlement activity to create realities on the ground that would make the prospect of the exchange of land for peace impossible. When the new Israeli prime minister, Yitzhak Rabin, took power he announced that his government would freeze all "political" settlements. That was a good signal, Palestinians, Arabs and Americans thought.

For the Palestinians, the Arabs and the Americans, Mr. Shamir's drive to stuff the West Bank with settlements was only viewed as political as opposed to what Mr. Rabin would call "security" settlements. Yet when Mr. Rabin decided to "freeze" the so-called political settlements it turned out that 10,000 state-funded housing units will be completed. That means 40,000 to 50,000 Jewish settlers will be added to the existing 120,000 already living in the occupied territories. If this is not political then Mr. Rabin will have to tell the world what he meant by saying that he wanted to freeze political settlements. And if this is what he terms "security" settlements, then it can only be thought of as intended to undermine the very security of the Palestinians and endanger the peace process itself. And since Mr. Rabin so far has not spelled out his position on the concept of the exchange of land for peace, the Palestinians and the Arabs have every right to suspect his motives and intentions. The Palestinians and the Arabs are also aware that Mr. Baker and the U.S. administration are fully informed of the extent of Israeli settlement activity. That is why the Arab side insists on a total halt to settlements. Otherwise, the Arabs fear there will be no land to talk about, but only a new reality symbolised by increased Jewish takeover of Palestinian lands.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

THE COMING few months offer the Arab countries a good opportunity to unite their ranks and take up a united stand in dealing with the Bush administration. Simply because this administration is in a race against time to achieve anything that would help it retain its mandate for another four years, said Al Ra'i Arabic daily Tuesday. Mr. Bush and his secretary of state are doing everything in their power to win the coming elections and it is quite reasonable to think that this administration will show some respect for the Arabs if they are willing to help the administration and are united in their demands, said the daily. Coordination among the Arab parties at this stage is of paramount importance if we want to accomplish anything from the present U.S. administration said the paper. If Mr. Bush is really respecting the international legitimacy, he has to show it now and in the coming months vis-a-vis the Arab-Israeli question and the Arabs should do something constructive to ensure that not only does the U.S. administration fulfil its own interests but also theirs too, added the paper. If the Arabs remain in disarray, the Bush administration is certain to back Mr. Rabin and his government and disregard the Arab demands, and that would result in a catastrophe for the Arabs, the paper continued. It said if the Arabs do not win Washington's respect for their rights, there is much to lose in the negotiations and in dealings with the Israeli government. Let us hope that the consensus achieved among the Arabs at their Damascus meeting would form a first step towards further solidarity among the Arab countries and let us hope that the coming negotiations would witness further coordination and a united stand, said the paper. The Arabs, the paper said, do not need a long time of a great deal of efforts to achieve the coordination which is needed to protect national interests.

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i daily launched a bitter criticism of the Cairo daily Al Ahram for publishing hostile and false reports against Jordan. Fahd Al Fanek said that the Cairo daily has become a centre for American espionage activity against Iraq and in another report claiming that Jordan was allowing all types of merchandise, ranging from food and medical supplies to electronic machinery to reach Baghdad. With such false reports, the writer said, the Cairo daily hoped to instigate Arab nationalists against the Jordanian government for allegedly allowing the Americans to use Amman as an espionage centre and to instigate the Arab allies of America to increase their hatred of Jordan because it is allegedly allowing supplies to pass to Iraq. The writer said that according to Al Ahram, up to 50 Iraqi companies have been established in Amman buying all necessary materials for Baghdad, claiming that the Jordanian government was condoning such operations. He said that with such false reports, the Cairo regime is trying to smear Jordan's reputation with false information which exists only in the minds of those who fabricated the news. If Egypt is trying, via Washington, to have a say in the ongoing Arab-Israeli peace process, it should put an end to its media campaigns which are convincing no one, demanded the writer. He said that Egypt should remember that it was through Jordan that it succeeded in finding its way back to the Arab fold after being ostracised for 10 years for signing a peace treaty with the Israeli enemy.

What does Israel cost U.S. taxpayers?

By Frank Collins

Why is it so difficult to arrive at an agreed total of U.S. aid to Israel over the 44 years since it came into existence in 1948? The reason is that the U.S. provides different kinds of aid to Israel. These have consisted of direct monetary grants, loans, loans with repayment waived so that they may be considered to be grants, loan guarantees, weapons transfers from U.S. stocks (sometimes off-budget) and U.S. arms stockpiles in Israel.

To derive a single total from all of these categories can be compared to adding apples and oranges. The Congressional Research Service (CRS) generally refrains from this kind of operation. It provides an accurate listing of the various categories of aid to Israel through the years. Others decide which data are relevant to computing the total cost of the aid.

1. Outright grants and forgiven loans

The most elementary accounting of the cost of U.S. aid to Israel is to limit the data used to outright grants, military and economic. In compiling the totals of such outright grants, CRS includes \$21 billion in U.S. military

loans to Israel, the repayment of which has been waived. Taking account of such explicit grants alone yields a rock bottom figure of \$42.6 billion in U.S. aid to Israel, since aid began in 1949 through Sept. 30, 1992.

2. Interest costs

Interest bulks large compared to principal, as every homeowner knows. It is therefore unrealistic to estimate the cost of aid to Israel without taking account to interest on the cash advanced. As the United States does not operate on a cash basis but is heavily in debt, the cost of this U.S. aid to Israel is simply added to the national debt. The additional debt incurred by the continuing aid to Israel grows year by year by the total of the additional grants each year, the interest on past grants and the interest on the past unpaid interest.

Item 1 in this article cites the total aid to Israel, without interest, as amounting to \$42.6 billion with Fiscal Year (FY) 1992 included, with interest at the prevailing treasury rate for each year, the cost of U.S. taxpayer grants to Israel and the interest on those grants is \$78.1 billion through Sept. 30, 1992.

3. Arms and technology transfers

The cost of arms and technology transfers to Israel is debatable. Appropriated FY 1991 aid to Israel included \$700 million in military equipment to be withdrawn from U.S. forces in Europe. At this date none of this excess equipment has been delivered, although Israel has received 16 F-15 fighter planes from the U.S. worth a book value of between \$20 million and \$30 million each.

The legislation also provided for \$300 million in U.S. arms to be stockpiled in Israel. While it is unlikely that the stockpiled equipment will ever be recovered by the United States, technically the equipment and material in the stockpile remain U.S. property. Thus in preparing estimates of the cost of aid to Israel, it is questionable as to how much of the cost of this \$1 billion in aid should be included.

4. Loan guarantees

In September 1991, U.S. loan guarantees that had been granted to Israel in past years amounted to \$6.198 billion. Of this amount, \$11 million has been paid off, leaving \$6.187 billion outstanding. This does not include \$10 billion to \$20 billion in interest

that Israel must ultimately pay to private lenders, and for which the U.S. is liable in the event of default.

Of the 138 countries to which loan guarantees have been advanced by the United States, Israel exceeds all others except Mexico in the amount outstanding. Service costs (interest and payments on principal) on all debts to domestic and foreign lenders amount to 40 per cent of the Israeli government budget. The corresponding figure for the debt-burdened United States is approximately 26 per cent.

The subject of loan guarantees to Israel became controversial beginning with the \$400 million in housing loan guarantees that were passed into law in May 1990 and were held up by the administration until March 1991. The administration was concerned that the funds borrowed under the guarantees would be used to build housing in the occupied territories, which has long been contrary to U.S. policy.

The loan guarantees for the \$400 million were released by the administration upon receiving assurances from the Israeli government that the loan guarantees would not be used for that purpose. The present mass building of housing in the West Bank is regarded in some quarters as a serious breach of that trust.

Even more controversial are estimates of the costs of servicing the \$10 billion in loan guarantees requested by Israel over the next five years, but held up by the administration pending a halt in Israeli settlement activity in East Jerusalem, the West Bank and Gaza. Estimates of the cost to U.S. taxpayers if Israel defaults, range from \$29.3 billion to \$116 billion.

Nor is there any agreement on the cost of annual set-asides for the possible \$10 billion in U.S. guaranteed loans for Israel to cover actuarial risk. Amounts of set-asides that have been discussed in congressional committees range from a few million dollars to \$300 million, all of which would have to be borrowed by the U.S. Treasury.

The Cranston amendment

A device for converting loans into grants is provided by the Cranston amendment, passed in 1984 and renewed annually thereafter. The amendment provides that U.S. economic aid to Israel shall not be less than the interest and payment on principal on debts due the U.S. government in any given fiscal year. For example, in FY 1991, the economic aid grant was \$1.2 billion, of which \$1 billion covered the servicing of military debts.

Lack of U.S. supervision

Unlike U.S. foreign aid grants and loans to every other country in the world, U.S. aid is turned over to Israel without U.S. supervision of its use. Israel put the money into the general government budget to be spent for all government programmes. This is the basis for the argument that aid from the United States flows up other monies to be spent for some purposes, such as settlement-building in the occupied territories, of which the U.S. government strongly disapproves.

The unique policy of non-supervision of U.S. aid to Israel has resulted in several cases of misuse covered by the Israel press. The most recent, in August 1991, related to alleged misappropriation of \$20 million in military aid by middle-level managers of the General Electric Company and retired Israeli Gen. Rami Dotan, who was convicted in Israeli courts.

Frank Collins is a free-lance journalist specialising in the Middle East. The report is reprinted from the Washington Report on Middle East Affairs.

Dr. Abdalla Malki is on a month-long leave.

Every moral right to stop areas housing

By Susan Hattis Rolf

Following is an article reprinted from the Jerusalem Post. The writer is the editor of the Labour movement monthly Spectrum.

It is no surprise that the representatives of the right-wing parties now in opposition, and the ideological settlers in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, are displeased with the new government's decision to freeze all new development activities in those settlements which Prime Minister Rabin has defined as "political."

After all, these people believe that in no circumstances should Israel be willing to give up an inch of territory in Eretz Yisrael, whether for religious or for security reasons; and that the way to prevent this from happening is to establish a Jewish presence in every corner of the land.

The intensified settlement in the territories by the Likud government from the middle of June 1990 to the middle of July 1992 was designed specifically and explicitly to create facts which would make it very difficult, if not impossible, for any Israeli government to make any sort of territorial concessions in future.

Former housing minister Ariel Sharon, apparently feeling that the Likud was about to lose power, only accelerated his ministry's frenzied activities in the territories, aimed at creating as many irreversible facts as humanly possible.

These activities were not based on any real mass desire to move into the territories, though many people were attracted by the extremely low price of the housing offered — at the national treasury's expense. Nor were they carried out with any sort of proper budgeting or accountability. And only heaven knows where the money would have come from to cover the cost of all the construction bed the Likud won the elections. It was a classic case of both "the ends justify the means"

and "apres moi le deluge." Now the party is over; the new government has a different scale of priorities which emphasises investment in infrastructure and industry, education and social services, inside Israel proper.

In addition, it is committed to a peace process which, if successful, will result in Israel giving up most of the territory of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip in return for a peace settlement. It makes no sense whatsoever to invest in territories from which Israel will most probably withdraw in about four years.

The decision has nothing to do with the American demand of a freeze of all settlement activities in return for loan guarantees, although the loan guarantees and the possible lifting of the Arab boycott will be additional bonuses.

But the main goal, in the eyes of the government, is simply to stop pouring money down the drain. While the opponents of the new policy have a perfect right to express their opposition in every legal way possible, and to warn against what they consider to be the catastrophic consequences of this policy, many of the arguments which they are using are little more than demagoguery.

One of the arguments is that the government has no legal right to cancel construction contracts or stop construction activities for which it must foot the bill.

The government has a perfect legal right to cancel contracts, though it will either have to pay large sums in compensation to the contractors or find alternative projects for them.

A second argument is that Labour seeks to stop the settlement activities to free money to bail out the kibbutzim, Kupat Holim and the Histadrut industries. Even if this were true, one should point out that there are many more kibbutzim than settlers, and their contribution to the country's economic production and security is many times greater than that of the latter. Kupat Holim serves over two

million citizens and residents, many of them settlers — while the Histadrut industries employ some 16,000 workers.

But the argument is false. Koor, bailed out with some government help last year (when Yitzhak Moda'i was finance minister), is now making a real profit and doing very well on the stock market. Health Minister Haim Ramon plans a reform of Kupat Holim, not pouring more money into it.

Finally, the kibbutzim are undergoing major social and economic changes and do not require government hand-outs, just a debt settlement they can live with.

A third argument is that "the government which opposes the transfer of Arabs from the territories is planning a transfer of Jews."

I do not believe that one can legitimately compare the transfer of persons whose families have lived in a certain location for

centuries, with the transfer of persons who have moved to the location only within the last few years, knowing all along that their movement was controversial.

But no one is speaking of a transfer of Jews; at the moment, the government is speaking of stopping more Jews from moving into the territories from Israel proper.

Furthermore, within the framework of a permanent settlement, a major effort will be made to enable Jews who want to continue to live in settlements in areas handed over to some Arab sovereignty, to do so.

However, the statement which raises the greatest objections is that which compares the policy (of limiting Jewish settlement) of the "current" democratically elected government of Israel to that of the British Mandatory government in Palestine at the time of the 1939 White Paper.



A view of an Israeli settlement in the occupied territories

U.S. ties with Vietnam could hinge on election

By Jim Wolf
Reuters

WASHINGTON — Prospects for normalisation of U.S. relations with Hanoi may have been damaged by the emotional firestorm President George Bush encountered over the Americans listed as missing from the Vietnam war.

Relatives of the missing men, chanting "no more lies" and "tell the truth" have shouted the president down, even as he vowed to hold Vietnam to full account for the missing 2,266 Missing in Action (MIAs) and Prisoners of War (POWs).

The uproar at an annual convention of MIA and POW families underlined for Mr. Bush the dangers of making overtures to Vietnam during a presidential election year.

"Normalisation would be the heroic act of a one-term president," said one administration official.

With Democratic rival Bill Clinton way ahead in the polls, Mr. Bush is now considered all the more unlikely to risk stirring

strong emotions on the issue before the poll.

Mr. Clinton, if he wins, could proclaim a fresh start and begin lifting the trade embargo that the United States imposed against Hanoi in 1964. Hanoi may have special reason to take heart as Mr. Clinton had "opposed the Vietnam war."

Critics charge that successive U.S. administrations have known since 1973 that U.S. servicemen were left behind in Indochina after the war. Some allege that Americans may still be held against their will, a charge Vietnam and Laos stoutly deny.

Previously secret documents released this week indicate a seriously flawed effort by the defence department to account for the missing men — including 1,658 in Vietnam, 519 in Laos, 81 in Cambodia and eight off China's coast.

A Pentagon task force concluded in 1986 that the Defence Intelligence Agency "holds information that establishes the strong possibility of American prisoners of war being held in

Laos and Vietnam."

The task force, chaired by retired U.S. Air Force Lieutenant General Eugene Tighe, a former head of the Defence Intelligence Agency, also concluded that the Hanoi government held at least 400 sets of U.S. skeletal remains "solely for continued bargaining power."

But the Tighe report should not be considered the last word on the issue. Reviews by Pentagon analysts and other U.S. officials of the "live sighting" reports on which it was based took issue with its conclusions.

"There are several flat untruths in it, many distortions and inaccuracies, an abundance of speculation with no basis in fact, an obvious lack of understanding of the overall issues," wrote Richard Childress, who was at the time director of Asian affairs on the National Security Council staff.

Mr. Childress said, however, that "there is compelling evidence" that the Pathet Lao communists were holding a few U.S.

prisoners at Sam Neua in north-east Laos after the war. He did not know what happened to those men.

The newly-released documents were the first of about 1.5 million pages due to be made public over the next year or so as they are sanitised to protect intelligence sources and methods.

Their declassification followed an executive order by Mr. Bush last Wednesday to release all government POW-MIA material, with certain exceptions, compiled since 1973, when American troops ended their official involvement in the war.

Speaking to the families after the protest subsided, Mr. Bush has said that "without further positive movement on the POWs and MIAs we cannot and will not continue to move forward with Hanoi."

Specifically, he urged Vietnam to send back without delay "all recovered and readily recoverable remains," suggesting Hanoi was deliberately withholding bones as bargaining chips.

LETTERS

Clear terminology

To the Editor:

Having read Ms. Ghadah Mahmoud's letter to the editor (the Jordan Times, July 27), I would like to make the following observations:

1. The terms "Israeli occupied territories" and "Arab occupied territories" are grammatically wrong unless the word "Israeli" or "Arab" is linked with a hyphen to make it read either "Israeli-occupied territories" or "Arab-occupied territories." This makes it clear that the "territories" referred to are either occupied by Israel or by Arabs.

Now, Ms. Mahmoud and all those who are concerned with "inaccurate descriptions" of the land in question have the choice of referring to the territories as belonging to someone else but occupied by Israel or Arabs. Take your pick. I don't think, however, that "Arab-occupied territories" would be the right term since that would be a gross reversal of the entire situation.

2. By the same token the term "occupied Arab lands" is perfectly right in grammatical terms since it leaves no room for doubt that the land belongs to the Arabs but is occupied by someone else: Israel or Turkey or Iran or whoever.

Within the realm of linguistics, I do not think anyone can pick a fight over this.

3. Ms. Mahmoud, having taken pains to describe and present the situation in the occupied territories and Israeli practices and policies to make her point clear in legal terms, seems to have overlooked a vital aspect of the Arab-Israeli conflict and used the term "deportations" without distinction.

If I may point out, "deportation" is an act carried out by a sovereign state against foreign nationals, and in some cases, against its own citizens. It means the physical ouster of a person(s) from a land to which the concerned state has the right of sovereignty. Therefore the ouster of Palestinians from the occupied territories (the West Bank including Jerusalem, the Gaza Strip, the Golan Heights and South Lebanon as well as Jordanian border areas) can in no way be described as "deportation" since Israel has no right of sovereignty in these lands. The best term that could be used is "expulsion."

One may ask: Why all this fuss about words and terms? The answer is simple: Here in the Middle East, we have learnt that it is naive at best if we go by Western descriptions of our affairs, but have little choice other than to correct things whenever and wherever possible.

Inad Khairallah,
Amman.

Protect the holy places

To the Editor:

The Israeli drive to demolish holy sites continues in spite of the general expression of hope for the quick resumption and success of peace talks.

We, therefore, deplore the demolition of the Orthodox Church on the Mount of Olives and appreciate the Greek government's action in strongly protesting the new act of Israeli aggression against the holy places.

We hope that the Greek government will continue its efforts against these and other illegal acts in spite of their new relationship with Israel. We sincerely hope that demands for immediate restoration will be met without delay.

We call on all free and peace-loving people to continue their vigil and work for the protection of all the Islamic and Christian holy places in the Holy Land.

Orthodox Arab Society,
Amman.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.

قزاقى كاتالىپى

In radical shift, Vanity Fair's editor takes over the New Yorker

By Richard B. Woodward

IN A country that prides itself on innovation, the New Yorker magazine has kept its format largely intact and unaltered for 67 years, remaining a grove of academe where trends go unnoticed except to be ridiculed in cartoons, a shuttered asylum for eccentric writers and editors obsessed by words rather than images, a weekly with the pace and moral compass of a Victorian quarterly.

The news that 38-year-old Tina Brown will soon be put in charge of this peculiar institution shocked the New York publishing world to its socks on June 30. Her success in turning around Vanity Fair, a foundering enterprise when she took over in 1984 and now the most talked-about and imitated magazine in America, was thanks largely to splashy photojournalism, kinky true-crime stories, profiles of Hollywood celebrities and European royalty, and a fawning regard for advertisers — pretty much everything the New Yorker has always stood against.

Although rumours of Ms. Brown's accession had circulated for years, the fact surprised nearly everyone and seemed to indicate the unique sensibility and traditions of the New Yorker are now, if not threatened with extinction, then due for an overhaul. Robert Gottlieb, removed this week as editor after five years, had fine-tuned with tiny screwdrivers and the magazine continued to lose money. Ms. Brown seems to have been given a mandate by her boss, the publishing mogul Si Newhouse Jr., who owns both magazines, to make wholesale changes that Mr. Gottlieb was unable, or unwilling, to oversee.

Innovation at the New Yorker is usually measured in aeons. During its first 62 years, it changed editors once. The editorial floors of the original building,

vacated two years had the air of a small agricultural college during the depression. Employees tended not to leave once accepted into the cosy, exclusive family.

But the sale of the magazine in May 1985 for \$168m (\$88m) to Mr. Newhouse, who runs Advance Communications (Condé Nast magazines, Random House and a string of local newspapers), put an end to its independence. In 1987 Mr. Newhouse forced out William Shawn, the editor for 35 years, and replaced him with Bob Gottlieb, editor-in-chief of the book publisher Alfred A. Knopf, another Newhouse property.

On June 30, Mr. Newhouse addressed the staff in the New Yorker's new offices at a gathering described by one staff member as "pained" rather than hostile. The shy billionaire called Mr. Gottlieb's departure necessary for the "evolution" of the magazine but could not say what this might mean.

Steve Cohn, of the Media Industry Newsletter, says no weekly magazine in America lost more ad pages (1,769) between 1979 and 1989 than the New Yorker. Last year was the worst ever, with a fall-off of almost 20 per cent. Circulation has been slipping.

The magazine suffers from an ageing readership (average age 43.6) and even older writership. Three of its outstanding critics — Pauline Kael (film), Andrew Porter (music) and Arlene Croce (dance) — have either retired or gone on extended leave. A generation of young humorists to replace SJ Perelman and Woody Allen is nowhere in sight. Stalwart contributors John Updike, George Steiner, Whitney Balliett and John McPhee are in their sixties. The long excerpts last year from John Cheever's journals seem ever more like an elegy for the kind of magazine the New Yorker may soon cease to be.

A graph of Vanity Fair during

the last five years shows a robust upswing and a much younger readership (average age 33.6). Between 1987 and 1990 advertising swelled from 860 to 1,471 pages. Last year it held its own and this year is up 10 per cent. Ms. Brown deserves much of the credit. Her successor, G Graydon Carter, a founder of the satirical magazine Spy, inherits a gleaming commercial machine. If it continues to race along, credit will reflect on her; if it lags, he will be the scapegoat.

The mood among the staff at the New Yorker on June 30 was one of shock, sadness and resignation. The last time Mr. Newhouse imposed an editor it was Mr. Gottlieb, and they threatened mass resignations. No such act was considered this time. "We did that before and it didn't mean anything," said a writer.

They can take consolation from the fact that Mr. Newhouse does not need another Vanity Fair and that the New Yorker can use an infusion of energy. That Ms. Brown chose to remain in print journalism rather than listen to the sirens of Hollywood, where movie and television companies had wooed her, shows where her heart is. To revive Vanity Fair is one sort of honour; to save the

New Yorker without cheapening its subtly modulated tone will be an act of heroism of another order.

There is little doubt that she knows how to produce a smart, immensely readable magazine. She has handled Vanity Fair like a weekly, ripping it apart at the final hour to squeeze in timely political and business pieces. She has beaten the pants off the other monthlies. What her husband, Harold Evans, has called her "radical cunning" has given the magazine access enjoyed by few others. She has, however, paid scant attention to literary fiction, lengthy pieces of criticism, or untimely and unsensational non-fiction — areas in which the New Yorker is unrivalled.

Her journalistic metabolism, attention span and clout with advertisers may be just what the doctor ordered. But will anyone recognise the patient once she has completed her makeover? Ms. Brown has been unusually reticent about her plans but the staff cannot have been reassured by her quotes in the papers. "I hope to maintain the intellectual and literary standards of the magazine," she told the Wall Street Journal. "But I want to increase its relevance, address a younger

audience." Had she only said "will" instead of "hope"!

There has been no small amount of Schadenfreude among rival publications as the New Yorker has been forced to mud-wrestle for its share of readers. For years the publisher has been coyly touting her product in a series of television commercials as "maybe the best magazine in the world, maybe the best magazine that ever was." This sure sign of insecurity — no maybe about it — signalled clearly that the rules of the game had changed.

But bad news at the New Yorker isn't good news for anyone. Time and Newsweek have remade themselves in desperate attempts to reach out to young readers and its busier, older mainstays. Nothing indicates this strategy is working. The ugly truth is that Americans don't read with the same dedication of 20 years ago. The unique qualities of the New Yorker — its broad, literate appeal and chaste traditions — at one time gave it a clear advantage over other weeklies. These same qualities appear now to have doomed it, at least in its present form. Should the New Yorker survive or thrive under Tina Brown — and no one here is

betting against her — a certain kind of unhurried prose will no longer have a home. Her appointment marks the end of Newhouse's tinkering. To paraphrase a legendary American colonel in Vietnam, she will now have to destroy the village to save it — The Independent.



Tina Brown, ex-Vanity Fair editor

U.N. begins ministry search

(Continued from page 1)

crisis, which includes sending a battery of Patriot missiles to Kuwait.

Mr. Bush stood by his get-tough policy despite the compromise agreement that permitted U.N. inspectors to enter the ministry in Baghdad Tuesday.

"I didn't get the impression that immediate use of force was contemplated today because of the actions taken by Iraq," said Speaker Tom Foley after he and other leaders met with the president. "It was emphasised today that any use of force would be accompanied by consultation and communications with Congress."

The leaders, both Democrat and Republican, said they do not believe that politics was influencing the president's actions on Iraq.

"We haven't seen any evidence of that," said Mr. Foley, a Democrat from Washington State. "The president's concern is that even in an election year, that the Congress and the executive work together in critical foreign policy issues."

Said Senate Democratic leader George Mitchell: "We don't view this in an election context." "There wasn't any politics at all in that room," said Sen. Bob Dole, Senate Republican leader. Other members of the Gulf war alliance appeared ready to leave the lead to the United States.

British Foreign Minister Douglas Hogg said his country was working closely with the United States, but evaded questions about military preparedness.

Mr. Dole said there was con-

Israel expects backlash

(Continued from page 1)

Since the new government took over two weeks ago, there have been conflicting sets of figures on how many housing units in the occupied territories would be cancelled and how many completed.

Israel reports noted that the architect of the settlement drive, former Housing Minister Ariel Sharon, left no documents behind, forcing his successor to gather fresh information. The daily Hadashot said Mr. Sharon ordered relevant documents shredded and computer discs wiped clean.

Last week, Mr. Ben Eliezer announced the cancellation of 6,681 planned units for which no contracts had been signed or with signed contracts but on which no work had been started.

Mr. Ben Eliezer also approved planned or actual construction of 1,686 units in four settlements within a 40-kilometre radius of occupied Jerusalem in which he said no restrictions would be imposed.

The fate of another 8,781 units under construction would be reviewed, Mr. Ben Eliezer said last week.



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Financial Markets

Jordan Times
In cooperation with
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U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	NEW YORK CLOSE Date 27/7/92	TOKYO CLOSE Date 28/7/92
Sterling Pound	1.9190	1.9268
Deutsche Mark	1.4809	1.4769
Swiss Franc	1.3100	1.3053
French Franc	5.0020	4.9960
Japanese Yen	127.45	127.35
European Currency Unit	1.5785	1.5798

Forex Currency Interim Rates Date: 28/7/92

Currency	1 UNIT	5 UNITS	10 UNITS	100 UNITS
U.S. Dollar	0.57	3.40	3.50	3.75
Sterling Pound	10.06	10.08	10.18	10.06
Deutsche Mark	9.68	9.68	9.75	9.02
Swiss Franc	8.45	8.45	8.45	8.51
French Franc	10.06	10.18	10.18	10.18
Japanese Yen	4.03	4.00	3.87	3.87
European Currency Unit	10.87	10.87	10.90	10.75

Previous Month's Rates Date: 28/7/92

Currency	U.S. Dollar	U.S. Dollar	U.S. Dollar	U.S. Dollar
U.S. Dollar	0.57	0.57	0.57	0.57
Sterling Pound	1.9190	1.9190	1.9190	1.9190
Deutsche Mark	1.4809	1.4809	1.4809	1.4809
Swiss Franc	1.3100	1.3100	1.3100	1.3100
French Franc	5.0020	5.0020	5.0020	5.0020
Japanese Yen	127.45	127.45	127.45	127.45
European Currency Unit	1.5785	1.5785	1.5785	1.5785

Other Currencies Date: 28/7/92

Currency	U.S. Dollar	U.S. Dollar
U.S. Dollar	0.668	0.670
Sterling Pound	1.2871	1.2935
Deutsche Mark	0.4520	0.4545
Swiss Franc	0.5111	0.5137
French Franc	0.1337	0.1344
Japanese Yen	0.5245	0.5271
Dutch Guilder	0.3806	0.3826
Scandin Krona	0.1245	0.1251
Italian Lira	0.0597	0.0600
Belgian Franc	0.02179	0.02190

Amman Financial Market

Index	26/7/92	Close	27/7/92	Close
All-Share	140.05		139.96	
Banking Sector	102.38		101.49	
Insurance Sector	150.32		150.32	
Industry Sector	192.77		193.40	
Services Sector	177.27		176.62	

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at mid-session on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.

Currency	Rate	Currency	Rate
One Sterling	1.9225/35	U.S. dollars	0.57
One U.S. dollar	1.1877/82	Canadian dollar	0.7540
	1.4802/12	Deutsche mark	0.05258
	1.6710/20	Dutch guilder	0.1775
	1.3095/05	Swiss franc	2.2400
	30.48/52	Belgian franc	0.1815
	5.0040/90	French franc	0.2100
	1121/1122	Italian lire	1.7030
	117.72/77	Japanese yen	0.1815
	5.3680/3730	Swedish crown	0.3480
	5.8135/85	Norwegian crown	1.5565
	5.6930/80	Danish crown	1.5765
One ounce of gold	\$359.10/359.60		

JORDAN FINANCIAL MARKET

TRADING VOLUME IN THE PARALLEL MARKET

COMPANY'S NAME	TRADING VOLUME	PREV. CLOSING PRICE	OPENING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE
JORDAN ZINC	11,000	2.750	2.750	2.775
JORDAN ZINC	9,775	2.850	2.850	2.875
JORDAN ZINC	382	2.500	2.500	2.500
JORDAN ZINC	2,500	2.500	2.500	2.500
JORDAN ZINC	2,000	2.500	2.500	2.500
JORDAN ZINC	194	2.500	2.500	2.500
JORDAN ZINC	2,668	2.500	2.500	2.500
JORDAN ZINC	9,409	2.500	2.500	2.500
JORDAN ZINC	784	2.500	2.500	2.500
JORDAN ZINC	197,427	2.500	2.500	2.500
JORDAN ZINC	432,162	2.500	2.500	2.500
JORDAN ZINC	82,190	2.500	2.500	2.500
JORDAN ZINC	2,904	2.500	2.500	2.500
JORDAN ZINC	10,830	2.500	2.500	2.500
JORDAN ZINC	8,311	2.500	2.500	2.500
JORDAN ZINC	187,768	2.500	2.500	2.500
JORDAN ZINC	30,271	2.500	2.500	2.500
JORDAN ZINC	27	2.500	2.500	2.500
JORDAN ZINC	4,929	2.500	2.500	2.500
JORDAN ZINC	2,880	2.500	2.500	2.500
JORDAN ZINC	32,515	2.500	2.500	2.500
JORDAN ZINC	82,844	2.500	2.500	2.500
JORDAN ZINC	63,274	2.500	2.500	2.500
JORDAN ZINC	4,320	2.500	2.500	2.500
JORDAN ZINC	24,482	2.500	2.500	2.500
JORDAN ZINC	9,837	2.500	2.500	2.500
JORDAN ZINC	13,279	2.500	2.500	2.500
JORDAN ZINC	7,680	2.500	2.500	2.500
JORDAN ZINC	118,144	2.500	2.500	2.500
JORDAN ZINC	4,421	2.500	2.500	2.500
JORDAN ZINC	11,504	2.500	2.500	2.500
JORDAN ZINC	232	2.500	2.500	2.500
JORDAN ZINC	5,290	2.500	2.500	2.500
JORDAN ZINC	3,200	2.500	2.500	2.500
JORDAN ZINC	613	2.500	2.500	2.500
JORDAN ZINC	2,056	2.500	2.500	2.500
JORDAN ZINC	339,048	2.500	2.500	2.500
JORDAN ZINC	9,989	2.500	2.500	2.500
JORDAN ZINC	42,136	2.500	2.500	2.500
JORDAN ZINC	168	2.500	2.500	2.500
JORDAN ZINC	1,056	2.500	2.500	2.500
JORDAN ZINC	9,331	2.500	2.500	2.500
JORDAN ZINC	11,993	2.500	2.500	2.500
JORDAN ZINC	66,890	2.500	2.500	2.500
JORDAN ZINC	23,568	2.500	2.500	2.500
JORDAN ZINC	910	2.500	2.500	2.500
JORDAN ZINC	20,888	2.500	2.500	2.500
JORDAN ZINC	235,964	2.500	2.500	2.500
JORDAN ZINC	399,693	2.500	2.500	2.500
JORDAN ZINC	790	2.500	2.500	2.500
JORDAN ZINC	1,405	2.500	2.500	2.500
GRAND TOTAL	3,651,445			

Lebanese lira sinks to new record low

BEIRUT (R) — Political tension stripped the Lebanese lira of 1.97 per cent of its value Tuesday driving it to a new record low of 2,030 to the dollar, banks said.

The central bank said the lira had "dropped from the previous record low of 1,990, scored Monday."

Bankers said heavy demand for the dollar in the exchange market continued due to controversy over Lebanon's first general elections since 1972 set to start in August.

The latest fall came one day before a general strike called by the Confederation of Trade Unions (CTU) to protest against the deteriorating economy and rising inflation.

The call for Wednesday's strike is the first by the CTU since May 6 when workers and youths rioted on the first day of a three-day strike across the country.

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Qualified applicants should send detailed CV's by August 8, to Box 9363 or Fax 612902, Amman, Jordan.

Returnees from Gulf push Amman eastwards, southwards

In Tuesday's issue of the Jordan Times, the writer examined the number of building licences over the past seven and a half years and the volume of construction that has occurred and is still taking place in the east and south of Amman. Following is part II of the article, focusing on the western and northern regions of Amman and the building areas licensed in all the regions of the capital.

By Samir Shafiq
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Abdali and Shmeisani, Amman's former suburbs that are now almost becoming the heart of the capital, got a record 334 building permits last year after hitting a low 151 permits in 1988. However, the number this year may become a new record as the municipality processed 231 permits until June 30.

The Greater Amman Municipality considers western Amman to be the Zahran section, stretching from the First Circle of Amman to the Sixth Circle, and the Wadi Al Seer section, which includes Al Jandawel, Bayad Wadi Al Seer and the section from Jabal Amman's Sixth Circle to the Eighth Circle.

Statistics on western Amman show the continued building expansion in Wadi Al Seer is almost double than in the Zahran area. Specifically, there were 199 licences issued to Zahran landlords in 1991, compared to 394 licences issued for Wadi Al Seer.

Similarly, in the first half of this year, the municipality issued 329 construction permits, 200 of which benefited Wadi Al Seer. By contrast, construction in Zahran seems to be declining as the number of licences to this section has gradually decreased from a high of 235 in 1985.

The north eastern side of the capital, namely Marka and Mahatta, witnesses a flurry of construction activity.

Although there were only 1,872 licences given to Marka (and Mahatta) during the past seven and a half years, the municipality processed 290 permits to the first six months of this year, slightly less than the 304 permits the municipality had issued during the whole of 1991.

Construction in the Tareq (formerly known as Tabarbour) region, which lies between eastern Marka and the northern section of Jbeiha, is going extremely fast as statistics show licences given to this section had grown from only 84 in 1985 to 207 in 1988 and 357 in 1991.

The beautiful hilltop of Jbeiha, popularly known as the land of Al Lawziyeen, has become less "exclusive" as its population grew considerably.

Jbeiha attracted many real estate investors and home buyers during 1985 and 1986, but demand in the following three years

dipped as only about 200 construction licences were issued annually during the latter years.

However, Jbeiha regained its attraction in 1991 as the number of building licences in this region suddenly jumped to 357. One hundred and seventy licences were issued to build in Jbeiha in the past six months.

The remaining other sections of Amman had been given the following building licences:

Name	1992	1991	1990
Al Muqablein	195	331	257
Al Yarmouk	139	201	212
Ras Al Ein	123	222	204
Badr Al Jedidah	21	23	42

Al Muqablein lies just west of the radio and television stations. Al Yarmouk is the section of the city known as Al Wihdat (refugee camp). Ras Al Ein is an extension to the west of downtown Amman neighbouring Bader section. Badr Al Jedidah lies to the west of Wadi Al Seer.

Statistics provide further insight into the growth of Amman since 1985 by detailing the areas of buildings licensed without specifying the region or the type of construction except for two categories: Residential and other purposes.

As such, the total building area that was licensed since 1985 until the end of last month stood at 10,908,700 square metres, of which 9,753,000 square metres, or 89 per cent, were classified as residential.

During the past six months, only 205,500 square metres of building areas were licensed although the number of permits issued was 3,840.

The number of licences issued in 1991 was 6,290, but the area covered was an amazing 3,191,300 square metres, of which 3,091,900 square metres were residential.

The 1991 figures, the highest in terms of number of permits and area covered since 1985, translate into an average of 508 square metres to one permit.

Official sources at the Greater Amman Municipality attributed the sharp rise to the large number of Gulf returnees who embarked on building their own homes on lands they had previously bought in eastern Amman.

Doubling the above-mentioned explanation, the Jordan Times contacted the Housing Corporation which confirmed that it had not launched any major project last year for the low-income groups for which it caters.

An official source at the corporation said the building boom was generally driven by individual undertakings.

The building areas averaged 800,000 square metres during 1985, 1986 and 1987, but jumped to 1.4 million in 1988. The figures increased in the following two years to 1.8 million and 1.9 million square metres before the giant leap to 3.2 million in 1991.

Of the 3.2 million square metres, 3.1 million were residential.

EC ministers strike deal on VAT, excise duty

BRUSSELS (R) — European Community (EC) finance ministers conditionally agreed Monday to set a minimum rate of value added tax (VAT) and basic rates of excise duty on a range of products from tobacco to spirits and heating oil.

The deal — subject to reservations by France, Britain and Spain — to set a minimum VAT rate of 15 per cent, and the accords on excise duties put in place a key plank in the EC's headlong rush to tear down internal borders at the start of next year.

The deal still hangs on Spain and Britain settling a dispute over excise duty on Spanish sherry and on France dropping its objections to VAT on horticultural products and duties on wine and heating oil.

France, which recently raised its VAT rate on products such as cut flowers, wants a compromise forcing the Netherlands and Ger-

Algerian premier says war economy needed

ALGIERS (R) — Algeria's new prime minister, Belaid Abdel Selam said Monday the nation had to switch to a war economy and outlined a programme which showed the country's socialist pedigree and a disdain for free market reforms.

Mr. Abdel Selam who led the nationalisation of the oil industry in the 1970s and has opposed tentative reforms begun in 1988, gave this sombre message in his first news conference since taking office a week ago.

Imports have to be cut to bare essentials, closing factories if necessary, in order to be able to service its \$25 billion of foreign debt.

"My government does not claim it will solve every problem immediately. On the contrary, it undertakes to work to ensure citizens the minimum they need to live in decency and dignity. That will require rigour and a phase of austerity," he said.

The prime minister, who is his own economy minister, said it would cost \$10 billion this year to service the debt, out of foreign currency earnings of \$12 billion.

But he ruled out rescheduling the debt on the grounds this would simply postpone the problem. He also opposed further currency devaluation or trade liberalisation, both recommended by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank.

"I have the impression that some circles in some countries and institutions think Algeria is ready to accept anything, that the Algeria of the National Liberation Front and the revolution was a mistake. But I say to them that the people will not accept being treated in this way," he said.

The country now has 20 per cent unemployment despite oil production of 760,000 barrels a day.

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Church leaders, De Klerk discuss crisis Mandela: Strike to go ahead

JOHANNESBURG (R) — Nelson Mandela said Tuesday the two-day strike called by his African National Congress (ANC) and its allies for next week would go ahead.

"That strike will take place," he told a news conference on his return from an overseas trip that took in the United Nations, Saudi Arabia, Iran and Barcelona.

Mr. Mandela said he supported an initiative launched by South Africa's church leaders Monday aimed at resuscitating a draft accord between business and labour which would have limited the strike to a day of observing "peace and democracy."

"I wish they succeeded because their concern is that negotiations should resume and that mass action should take place in a disciplined manner. We are all committed to that approach," he said.

The mass action campaign launched last month, which has included marches and sit-ins at government buildings, is aimed at forcing President F.W. de Klerk's government to yield power.

"But there is no question of the object of mass action being an insurrection," Mr. Mandela said at the news conference.

The ANC began the campaign days before breaking off talks with the government on a non-racial constitution, accusing it of complicity in township violence.

Church leaders met President de Klerk Tuesday in the latest effort to defuse the crisis threatening South Africa's transition to democracy.

A spokeswoman for Mr. de Klerk said a delegation representing all major church groups attended the talks which began in Pretoria at 8.30 a.m. (0630 GMT).

The church leaders launched their initiative Monday, holding meetings with the Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU) and an employers' group known as SACCOLA (South African Coordinating Committee on Labour Affairs).

The talks Monday were aimed at resuscitating a draft accord between the two groups which would have averted a general strike called for Aug. 3 as part of opposition efforts to bring down Mr. de Klerk.

The accord is reported to have been torpedoed last week after intervention by government ministers who believed it would amount to a business alliance with the African National Congress.

The ANC, COSATU and the South African Communist Party have called the strike next week as part of a campaign of mass demonstrations.

They said the campaign was necessitated by government foot-dragging in negotiations on a non-racial constitution. The ANC has pulled out of the negotiations, accusing the government of complicity in township violence.

Business chiefs Monday warned workers they would not be paid if they heeded the strike call.

"The South African Chamber of Business (SACOB) warns that the planned mass action will have serious long-term economic consequences," the organisation, representing employer groups said in circulars to members and in pamphlets distributed in city centres.

"Employers should tell their employers beforehand that the general strike is illegal and a material breach of contract of employment... we urge the policy of no work, no pay," SACOB said.

The ANC responded by urging its supporters to ignore the guidelines and accusing the business community of resorting to intimidatory and coercive measures on workers.

"We call on all our people, black and white to ignore these guidelines and not to allow themselves to be intimidated by those whose political objectives are the retention of white minority rule, corruption and murder," the movement said.

"The ANC warns business not to victimise our people during the strike. Such actions can only lead to more and concerted campaigns against business," it added.

The ANC Monday decried an independent inquiry, into charges that South African police regularly beat their prisoners to death as police rejected another man died in detention.

Police said a 20-year-old black man collapsed and died on Sunday while in police custody in Vosloorus police station east of Johannesburg.

"That approximately one person a week dies in detention is horrific," the ANC said in a statement.

"That it takes an independent pathologist to bring it to public attention is a reflection of the lack of public accountability within the police who are clearly operating above the law."

Pathologist Jonathan Gluckman said at the weekend police were in blame for about 90 per cent of the 200 deaths in detention he had investigated.

"The lower rungs of the police are totally out of control," he said. "I am overwhelmed by the horror of it."

A police spokeswoman said a postmortem would be conducted to establish the cause of death of Bongiwe Mkhubela. She said evidence would be submitted to the attorney-general for a decision on prosecution.

"As no evidence is available at this stage of any offence regarding Bongiwe Mkhubela's unfortunate death, no action has been instituted against any person," a police statement said.

The ANC said it welcomed Law and Order Minister Herman Kriel's call for full reports on all deaths in police custody in the last two years but added:

"The police cannot, and should not, investigate themselves. It is imperative that a full, public independent investigation be conducted and those involved be brought to justice."

'Skeletons of Czar's 2 youngest children not in pit'

YEKATERINBURG, Russia (AP) — None of the skeletons found buried with murdered Czar Nicholas II and his wife belonged to the couple's two youngest children, Anastasia and Alexei, an American forensic scientist said Tuesday.

Dr. William Maples' conclusions left unsolved the mystery of what happened to the pair. Their whereabouts have been the subject of legend and controversy since the Bolsheviks executed Russia's last imperial family 74 years ago and dumped their bodies in a pit near this Ural Mountains city.

Dr. Maples, director of the C.A. Pound Human Identification Laboratory at the University of Florida-Gainesville, told a conference examining the Romanov family remains that three of the skeletons belonged to Olga, Maria and Tatyana, the eldest children of Nicholas and his wife, Alexandra.

He also said the czar, his wife Alexandra, and the family doctor, Sergei Botkin, were buried in the grave, confirming identifications made by Russian scientists in June.

The remaining three skeletons were a middle-aged white female and two middle-aged white men, which appeared to correspond to three servants who also had been shot, Dr. Maples said.

"All the skeletons appear to be too tall to be Anastasia, and in the skeletal material we have looked at, there is nothing that could represent Alexei," Dr. Maples said.

The Russians allowed an American team of six forensic specialists to examine skulls, bones and dental work, but Dr. Maples said they had not been



Nicholas and Alexandra surrounded by their children; (inset) Russian Historian Eduard Radzinsky who has chronicled the last days of the imperial family in his book *The Last Czar*

able to see two loose teeth found at the site. He left open the possibility the teeth might belong to either Alexei or Anastasia.

The Russians have said they are continuing to search for the other two skeletons, and they plan to conduct genetic tests with British scientists on bones and hair from the site.

Russian scientists began studying the remains last year after the skeletons of five females and four males were dug up on July 12, 1991 from the pit near Yekaterinburg, which was called Sverdlovsk during the Soviet era.

On July 17, 1918, local Bolsheviks on orders of Soviet founder Vladimir Lenin executed the czar and his family in the two-story house where they had been held prisoner in the centre of the town.

The family had been sent to Siberia three months after Czar Nicholas abdicated in March 1917, ending three centuries of Romanov rule.

The house later became a place of pilgrimage during Soviet rule. But in 1977, the ornate building once owned by a wealthy pre-revolutionary businessman was razed while Boris Yeltsin was the

city's Communist Party boss. Although the KGB knew where the bodies were buried, no effort was made to exhumate them until the age of glasnost.

Russian scientists identified the czar and his wife by using a computer to match the skulls with photographs. They are using the same method on the remaining skeletons, along with examinations of teeth and bones.

Over the years, legends arose that somehow the youngest daughter Anastasia and possibly even the royal heir Alexei had survived the execution.

When the remains of the entire family are identified, Russian authorities face the delicate issue of what to do with them. The lack of a burial has been painful for the Russian Orthodox Church and those Romanovs who managed to flee to exile.

Monarchists and the church are likely to press for a ceremonial burial, but no decision has been made about where they might be put to rest.

Flowers cover the base of a white wooden cross at the site, which fills with the sounds of nearby church bells on Sunday mornings.

COLUMN 8

Michael Jackson sues newspaper

LONDON (R) — Pop star Michael Jackson filed lawsuits alleging libel and breach of contract against the British Daily Mirror newspaper, his spokesman said. "Jackson's proceedings allege that (in) a series of articles the Mirror labelled Jackson 'Scarface' and falsely stated that his appearance was just a mask covering what was, in fact, a hideously disfigured face," a statement from Jackson's company said. "I can tell you flatly that he is not scarred, that there is no hole in his nose and that he is not disfigured in any way," the statement quoted Jackson's U.S. lawyer, Bertram Fields, as saying. "We'll be looking for very substantial damages," Jackson's lawyer in London, Julia Palca, said. Jackson and his company were also suing the Mirror and photographer Ken Lennox for breach of contract over a photograph Lennox took of Jackson. The suit alleges the Mirror "entered into a written agreement not to sell any photograph that they took during Jackson's performance and not to publish any such photographs more than once and that they deliberately violated that agreement by selling a photo of Jackson to other publications."

Jessye Norman cancels European concert tour

PARIS (AP) — American diva Jessye Norman has cancelled her European concert tour for health reasons, concert organisers in Monte Carlo said Monday. Miss Norman's tour was to include concerts in Monte Carlo on July 30 and in Salzburg, Austria, on Aug. 2, the organisers said. The soprano cancelled the tour "for reasons of health and vocal fatigue," said a source who spoke on condition of anonymity. No other details were provided.

Woman countersues son, says he should be whipped

CLEVELAND, Georgia (AP) — A 78-year-old woman, sued by her son for the cost of repairing her pickup, filed a countersuit recommending he get the whipping "I failed to give him as a child." Aoto mechanic Kenneth Arrowood sued his mother on July 6 in magistrate court, asking for \$2,613 for her failure to pay for work he did on her truck. "The plaintiff is indebted to the defendant for 40 years of services rendered as a mother, guidance counselor, cook, maid, banker, nurse, baby bondsman, baby sitter, laundry worker (and) psychologist, all of which the plaintiff has not paid for," Hazel Arrowood responded in a countersuit. "As a mother, and provided the law will allow me, I would publicly give my son the whipping that he so rightly needs and which I failed to give him as a child." If that is not allowed, Mrs. Arrowood said, the court should "appoint a bailiff or other court official to apply to my son the hickory whipping." No court date was set.

Police search for 3 in \$1 million resort heist

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Police Monday searched for three of five men who robbed a casino jewelry store of merchandise worth an estimated \$1 million. More than half of the jewelry was recovered but the rest was still missing. Two men were arrested a short time after Sunday's armed robbery, but three escaped, including one man who fired at a hotel security guard, police said. Five men entered Brittany Jewels International, a shop in the Caesars Palace hotel and casino, during the morning Sunday, police said. One man, armed with a handgun, forced an unarmed guard and a sales clerk to lie on the floor, while the others broke glass cases and grabbed jewelry, police Sgt. Russell Shoemaker said. The robbery was interrupted by a hotel guard, who escaped injury when a shot was fired. The guard chased four of the men and got the license number of a car in which they fled, Sgt. Shoemaker said. The fifth man ran in a different direction and was caught by hotel personnel, who recovered jewelry worth \$572,000, Sgt. Shoemaker said. Another man was arrested later at a motel. All the men were believed to be in their late teens or early 20s. The two who were arrested were from Los Angeles.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Imelda Marcos arrives in Hong Kong

HONG KONG (R) — Former Philippine first lady Imelda Marcos arrived in Hong Kong Tuesday on a mission to track down her late husband's secret riches which Manila says were looted from his treasury. It was her first trip abroad since she returned to Manila eight months ago to face more than 80 civil and criminal charges of corruption, currency violation and tax evasion. Wearing a black dress and accompanied by two aides, Mrs. Marcos and her party were driven from Kai Tak Airport in two red limousines to a hotel in Hong Kong's central district. She hopes to consult former associates of her husband about plans to give up part of her family's fortune in exchange for the dropping of civil cases against her. An aide said Mrs. Marcos would stay in Hong Kong for two days.

350 died trying to flee east Germany

BONN (AP) — As hopes faded that deposed east German leader Erich Honecker would return from Moscow to face manslaughter charges, investigators reported that at least 350 people died trying to flee east Germany. The figure is based on a list of 350 documented numbers, and could reach 400, said Hans-Joachim Bannasch, head of a special Berlin police unit investigating crimes by east German leaders. Some drowned in previously unreported attempts to swim to freedom across the Baltic Sea, Kittlaus said Monday. Meanwhile, hopes faded that Mr. Honecker would be returned from the Chilean embassy in Moscow to face manslaughter charges related to 47 border killings. Mr. Honecker has been hauled up there since last December.

Former aide defends Brazil president

BRASILIA, Brazil (R) — A former close aide defended Brazilian President Fernando Collor, denying Mr. Collor profited from an alleged corruption scheme in a scandal that threatens the future of his government. Former aide Claudin Vieira said money deposited in the bank account of Mr. Collor's secretary, which congressmen suspect came from an illegal influence-peddling scheme, was part of a loan taken by Mr. Collor to pay for his presidential campaign. "I have come to prove beyond the shadow of a doubt that the president financed his household expenses with his own resources," Mr. Vieira told a congressional committee investigating influence peddling charges against Mr. Collor's former campaign treasurer. Congressmen said they were sceptical of Mr. Vieira's account and suggested it may have been an elaborate cover-up. Mr. Vieira had been called to explain the source of large deposits into the bank account of Ana Cinelli, Mr. Collor's secretary, who later used the funds to pay for the president's household expenses. But Mr. Vieira said the money was part of a \$5 million loan taken by Mr. Collor from Uruguayan financial institution in 1989 to help pay for his presidential campaign.

Russian, Ukraine summit set for Monday

KIEV (R) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin and Ukrainian leader Leonid Kravchuk will meet in the Black Sea resort of Yalta for summit talks to end a damaging dispute over naval forces, Ukrainian news agency said Tuesday. The agency, quoting Mr. Kravchuk's office, said the two men would meet in Yalta Monday. It gave no further details. The dispute has dogged relations between the two giant former Soviet republics, trading accusations that each was claiming more than its due from the former Soviet force. The confrontation flared last week when a coastal protection vessel lowered the old Soviet ensign used by the fleet and ran up the Ukrainian flag before heading for a Ukrainian-controlled port.

Truce reached in Tajikistan

MOSCOW (AP) — Government, opposition and military officials in Tajikistan have agreed to a truce in their territorial and political conflicts that have wrecked their Central Asian republic for months.

The sides met in the town of Khornog and agreed to begin a truce Tuesday, release hostages a day later and use only negotiations to solve power struggles in the troubled republic bordering Afghanistan, Russian media said.

The truce could help find resolve the power struggle between northern and southern Tajiks who had jointly held power in the mountainous state of 4.8 million people since the Communist rule.

The Soviet collapse led Tajikistan's Islamic and Democratic parties to rebel against the government, which had been mainly from northern Tajikistan, President Rahmon Nabiyev agreed to share power, but his supporters resisted and clashed with opposition groups in the south.

Fighting has broken out in the Kulyab and Kurgan-Tyube regions. Authorities also have caught dozens of people trying to bring in weapons from Afghanistan, which is now dominated by ethnic Tajiks.

The truce was reached between the heads of major political parties, the Nabiyev government, chiefs of the Tajik interior and defence ministries and leaders of the southern regions, according to the ITAR-TASS News Agency.

Azerbaijani officials reported one dead in heavy Armenian shelling of the village of Khatin Bulag outside Nagorno-Karabakh.

Bush says he is best suited to handle world affairs

APPLETON, Wisconsin (AP) — U.S. President George Bush, in another attempt to blunt the momentum of Democratic Challenger Bill Clinton, is using the showdown with Iraq to remind Americans voters of his deep experience in foreign affairs.

The new effort was the centerpiece of Mr. Bush's speeches Monday in Michigan and Wisconsin in which he also tried to cast Mr. Clinton as a fan of big government.

Mr. Bush said the president sometimes gets calls in the middle of the night from advisers "about a coup in a powerful country (or) asking how we should stand up to the Baghdad bully halfway around the world," referring to Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein.

"And the American people need to know the man who answers that phone has the experience, the seasoning, to do the right thing," Mr. Bush said. "And I believe I have proved I am that man."

As Mr. Bush made the case that he is better prepared than Mr. Clinton to protect American interests abroad, two Republican governors backed him up, suggesting that replacing the president with the Arkansas governor was too risky during such remarkable global change.

"America cannot afford the untried and untested Bill Clinton," Michigan Gov. John Engler said at Mr. Bush's first stop. Later Wisconsin Gov. Tommy Thompson put it this way:

"If someone came to you and said they wanted to be your tour guide on a trip around the world but then admitted they'd never left the South, would you go with

that government programmes are not the answers for all problems.

On Monday, Mr. Clinton appealed to a national urban league audience in San Diego to help him fight "broken record" Republican charges that the Democratic ticket is too liberal and wants only to raise taxes and federal spending.

He said the Bush administration is using such charges as a smokescreen to avoid blame for not dealing with housing, jobs and other national problems.

Mr. Clinton's remarks were enthusiastically received by his predominantly black audience.

Meanwhile, Mr. Bush's running mate Vice President Dan Quayle Monday declared the debate about dumping him from the Republican ticket "past history" and shrugged off a newspaper's call for his departure. During a stop in Cincinnati he said elections aren't won or lost by running mates, anyway.

Two public opinion polls released over the weekend gave Mr. Quayle low marks. A Newsweek survey showed 56 per cent of the voters polled viewed Mr. Quayle unfavourably, while 49 per cent told a Time-CNN poll that Mr. Bush should replace him.

Meanwhile in Crystal City, Virginia, members of POW-MIA families were "shut up and sit down" buttons Monday to protest what they said is President Bush's refusal to heed their concerns about missing relatives they believe may still be alive. The buttons appeared at a news conference at which the

National Alliance of Families repeated its demands that Mr. Bush immediately declassify information about missing servicemen and prisoners of war. The group says the files are being kept under wraps.

Members of the alliance heckled the president during a speech Friday to the National League of Families of American MIAs-PoWs in South East Asia. The alliance, many of whose members also belong to the league, is concerned with the missing from other wars besides South East Asia.

Mr. Bush ended the heckling by asking sternly, "Would you please shut up and sit down?" Sue Scott, chairman of the board of the league, also pleaded for quiet and said the majority of those present wanted to hear the president.

The buttons worn at Monday's press conference read, "shut up and sit down Bush PoW policy 1992."

Kathryn Fanning of Oklahoma City, whose husband, Marine Maj. Hugh Fanning, was shot down over North Vietnam in 1967, asked, "Why is it that the United States government is using our dead and dying men as political footballs? I call for immediate declassification and release of all information on the prisoner of war issue."

Last week, Mr. Bush signed legislation ordering agencies to release files that did not invade the privacy of the POW-MIA servicemen's families. The documents made available to the public will have the names blacked out.

Jordan Press Foundation

Jordan Times

Home delivery

The Jordan Times and its sister Arabic daily Al Rai are offering a new home delivery service to different parts of the capital, starting first with the areas of Shmeisani, Abdoun and Umm Utheina.

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